

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00

AGR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 IGA-01 XMB-02 FRB-01 /082 W

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R 031540Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6843

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0012

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DM

SUBJ: GOWON TO VISIT DAHOMEY IN CONTEXT OF INCREASED NIGERIAN-
DAHOMAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION

1. NIGERIAN AMB (OBUNGE) HAS INFORMED US PRES GOWON WILL MAKE ONE DAY STATE VISIT TO DAHOMEY NEXT TUESDAY, JAN 7. OBUNGE DESCRIBED VISIT IN CONTEXT OF NIGERIAN GOVT DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC COOPERATION, BUT ALSO WITH VIEW TO IMPROVING THE CORDIALITY OF RELATIONS BETWEEN NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORS.

2. ACCORDING TO OBUNGE A NIGERIAN GOVT DEL WILL ALSO COME TO COTONOU LATER NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS NIGERIAN ASSISTANCE TO DAHOMEY IN THE FORM OF SUBSTANTIAL PARTICIPATION IN CEMENT PLANT AND SUGAR REFINERY PROJECTS. SOME FEATURES OF ARRANGEMENTS HE FORESEES ARE THE FOLLOWING: (A) NIGERIAN GOVT WILL PROVIDE CAPITAL FOR NIGERIAN PARTICIPATION; IT HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED WHETHER THIS WILL BE LOAN OR GRANT OR SOME OF EACH; (B) DAHOMEAN GOVT WILL HAVE 51 PERCENT OF CONTROL OF PROJECTS, THOUGH (CURIOUSLY ENOUGH) NOT NECESSARILY THAT MUCH OF THE QUITY;
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(C) DAHOMEANS WILL MANAGE BOTH PROJECTS; (D) NIGERIAN TECHNICIANS

WILL BE USED EXTENSIVELY; AND (E) NIGERIA WILL GUARANTEE TAKE ENTIRE OUTPUT OF TWO PLANTS NOT NEEDED BY DAHOMEY (BUT TERMS OF ENTRY INTO NIGERIAN MARKET WILL BE WORKED OUT LATER). ASKED WHERE THE DAHOMEAN GOVT WOULD OBTAIN CAPITAL FOR ITS SHARE OF PARTICIPATION, HE DID NOT KNOW UNLESS IT SHOULD BE THROUGH RESORT TO FINANCING DISCUSSED IN EARLIER STAGES OF PROJECT TALKS (E.G. EXIM CREDITS, IBRD LOAN, PRIVATE US MONEY). HE DID NOT KNOW OF ANY OTHER CURRENT SOURCE OF CAPITAL, AND HE SAID NIGERIAN GOVT WAS NOT OUT LOOKING FOR OTHER PARTICIPANTS - THAT WAS UP TO DAHOMEAN GOVT.

3. OBUNGE DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF ANY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS THAT MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE RE EXIMBANK RECONSIDERATION OF EITHER PROJECT, OR OR ATTITUDE OF OTHER PARTIES INTERESTED IN PROJECTS IN PAST. REPLYING TO QUESTIONS, AMB INDICATED HE NOT AWARE OF ANY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS EITHER.

4. COMMENT: BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT GOWON VIST WILL AIM AT SECURING ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES FOR NIGERIA (INVESTMENT AND NEEDED COMMODITIES) AND PARTICULARLY AT CONCLUSION OF SOME KIND OF ACCORD BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO PROCEED WITH CEMENT AND SUGAR REFINERY PROJECTS IN CONTEXT OF MAJOR NIGERIAN PARTICIPATION.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW STATE OF PLAY IN WASHINGTON RE CEMENT AND SUGAR REFINERY PROJECTS, INCLUDING DEGREE OF INTEREST OF EXIM, LANG, MCKEE, IBRD AND TOHER ERSTWHILE INTERESTED PARTIES.
ENGLE

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